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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

States of Origin for Estimated Major Movements of  
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables During the Month of April, 1947

The refrigerator car supply has tightened up considerably during the past two weeks on account of the heavy loading of perishables and slow movement of empties, due to difficult operating conditions caused by severe weather. Shortages are reported in most of the producing areas and unless there is an improvement in the movement of both loads and empties, the situation will remain critical.

There is an increased demand for seed potatoes that must move promptly in order to get them to southern areas for spring planting. The USDA has also arranged to export 150 cars of potatoes daily from Maine and 200 cars daily from the Red River Valley. Interstate Commerce Commission Service Orders 696 and 697 were effective March 11, 1947, to provide car supply priorities for this loading.

The demand for refrigerator cars will continue heavy during the next few months and the Association of American Railroads urges that every effort should be made to give this class of equipment prompt handling.

The 1946-47 citrus crop in Florida sustained severe and extensive damage from freezes early in February. Damage was greatest in groves on low ground in the interior of the State. On the West Coast and Lower East Coast the damage was slight. Prior to the freezes the drop of fruit had been heavy because of dry weather, relative high temperatures and high winds. Present conditions indicate that approximately 8 million boxes of oranges and 3.5 million boxes of grapefruit have been lost as a result of the freezes. Production of early and midseason oranges in Florida is now estimated at 26.5 million boxes. Valencia oranges are forecast at 25 million boxes, while prospective production of Florida grapefruit on March 1 was forecast as 30 million boxes.

Production of Texas oranges is estimated at 5.5 million boxes - 15 percent above the crop of last season, while grapefruit production is placed at 25 million boxes - 4 percent above last season.

Arizona oranges are estimated at 1.27 million boxes. Grapefruit production in that State is estimated at 4.1 million boxes - about the same as 1945-46 production.

California navels and miscellaneous oranges are estimated at 19.5 million boxes - 11 percent above the 1945-46 crop. The grapefruit crop in all areas of the State is estimated to be 3.39 million boxes. Lemons are forecast at 13.9 million boxes - 4 percent less than last season.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics states that on March 1 the prospective production of commercial vegetables in the winter producing States is 7 percent below the February 1 estimate and 12 percent less than last year but is 15 percent above the 1936-45 average. Cold weather in all areas except California and frequent and sometimes excessive rains in Florida have prevented proper germination and delayed growth of new plantings.

Indications now point to a somewhat smaller acreage of spring vegetables and melons this year than last. Estimates made to date show an acreage of spring crops 9 percent less than last year. Of these estimates carrots, cauliflower, Honey Ball and Honey Dew melons, lettuce, onions and a few other crops of lesser importance show smaller acreages than last year. Rather large decreases are shown for onions and lettuce.

Our estimates indicate that approximately 86,204 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables will be shipped during the month of April 1947, compared with a revised estimate of 78,616 cars in March 1947, and a decrease of 4.3 percent as compared with the 90,073 cars shipped during April 1946.

Carload shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables to originate in the North Pacific Region during April 1947, have been estimated to reach approximately 5,928. Those that will move in volume are shown in the table below:

North Pacific Region

<u>Commodity</u>	Estimated carloads		
	<u>Washington</u>	<u>Oregon</u>	<u>Idaho</u>
Apples	2,000	160	-
Onions	-	75	2
Pears	-	130	-
Potatoes	40	300	3,200

Our estimates of fresh fruits and vegetables to move in volume in carload lots from the South Pacific Region during April 1947, are as follows:

South Pacific Region

<u>Commodity</u>	Estimated carloads	
	<u>California</u>	<u>Arizona</u>
Asparagus	920	-
Carrots	2,300	1,000
Cauliflower	1,150	-
Celery	650	150
Broccoli	150	10
Cabbage	130	5
Grapefruit	180	500
Lemons	1,500	-
Lettuce & Romaine	4,200	4,300
Mixed Citrus Fruits	100	100
Mixed Vegetables	1,090	200
Oranges & Satsumas	5,000	275
Peas, green	680	5
Potatoes	1,500	-

Total estimated rail shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables to originate in the Rocky Mountain Region during April 1947, will aggregate 870 carloads. These will consist entirely of potatoes and are as follows: 500 carloads from Colorado; 150 carloads each from Montana and Wyoming; and 70 carloads from Utah.



Carload shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables to originate in the North Central Region during April 1947, are estimated to be 2,880. Practically all of these estimates will consist of potatoes, and are expected to originate according to the following pattern: 1,500 cars from North Dakota; 900 cars from Minnesota; 400 cars from Nebraska; 60 cars from South Dakota, and 15 cars from Iowa.

Principal carload shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables to originate in the Southwestern Region (excluding Texas), during the month of April 1947, will approximate 3,043. Those to move in volume are shown to originate as follows:

Southwestern Region

<u>Commodity</u>	Estimated carloads		
	<u>Arkansas</u>	<u>Louisiana</u>	<u>Oklahoma</u>
Bears, snap & lima	-	25	-
Cabbage	-	620	-
Mixed Vegetables	8	65	10
Potatoes	-	125	-
Spinach	20	-	50
Strawberries	180	1,300	-
Sweetpotatoes	3	600	-

The only other important estimated shipments to originate in this Region during April 1947 are 30 cars of spinach and 10 cars of mixed vegetables from Missouri.

The estimated carload shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables to originate in the Great Lakes Region during the month of April 1947, will approximate 647. Only the important movements are listed below by States of origin and they are:

Great Lakes Region

<u>Commodity</u>	Estimated carloads	
	<u>Michigan</u>	<u>Wisconsin</u>
Onions	30	15
Potatoes	380	200

Our estimated rail carload shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables that will originate in the New England Region during April 1947 should aggregate 8,090 carloads. These will be confined to potatoes and are as follows: 8,000 cars from Maine; 40 cars from Massachusetts; 25 cars from New Hampshire, and 15 cars from Connecticut.

Carload shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables estimated to originate in the Middle Atlantic Region during April 1947 are expected to total around 400. The principal movements by commodities and States of origin follow:

Middle Atlantic States

<u>Commodity</u>	Estimated carloads	
	<u>New York</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u>
Apples	-	20
Carrots	-	60
Onions	200	-
Potatoes	50	20
Spinach	-	10

Principal carload shipments to originate in the Southern Region (excluding Florida) during April 1947, are estimated to be as follows:

Southern Region

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Estimated carloads</u>		
	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>Georgia</u>	<u>Kentucky</u>
Cabbage	100	1,200	-
Lettuce & Romaine	-	70	-
Mixed Vegetables	10	25	-
Potatoes	2,500	200	-
Strawberries	10	-	30

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Estimated carloads</u>				
	<u>Mississippi</u>	<u>North Carolina</u>	<u>South Carolina</u>	<u>Tennessee</u>	<u>Virginia</u>
Apples	-	-	-	-	100
Cabbage	340	15	270	-	-
Greens, except Spinach	75	-	-	-	-
Lettuce & Romaine	-	10	45	-	-
Mixed Vegetables	30	-	50	-	125
Peas, green	10	-	30	-	-
Potatoes	300	400	2,400	-	-
Spinach	-	-	-	-	160
Strawberries	-	-	-	310	-
Sweetpotatoes	-	55	40	50	-

Important carload shipments of fresh fruits and vegetables to originate in Texas and Florida during April 1947, are estimated as follows:

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Estimated carloads</u>	
	<u>Texas</u>	<u>Florida</u>
Beans, snap & lima	15	500
Carrots	600	145
Celery	-	1,800
Beets	115	-
Cabbage	230	745
Corn, green	460	15
Cucumbers	155	520
Eggplant	-	20
Escarole	-	120
Grapefruit	3,500	2,000
Mixed Citrus Fruit	450	2,000
Mixed Vegetables	1,200	950
Onions	5,900	-
Oranges & Satsumas	150	6,300
Peppers, green	-	180
Potatoes	1,400	1,900
Tomatoes	1,700	1,200